The Call Letter

November 2020
Vol 46, #11

World War I field wireless station
Moving often required a pack train

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

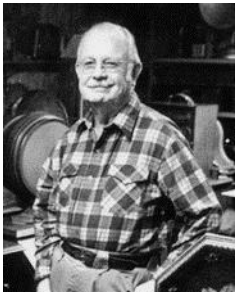
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.



With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

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On the Cover

Dan Howard: The postcard is from my collection. It shows a ca. World War I field wireless station. In those days moving a complete station with masts, batteries or a gasoline generator, and associated equipment, often required a pack train. I thought that the theme of the card would be fitting for Veteran's Day.

November Table of Contents

Announcements....1
President's Note and VP Note....2
NWVRS Meeting Minutes - October 10, 2020 by Liles Garcia....3
A Tribute to Virginia by Susan Hamilton....3
In Memory of Virginia Ranken by Dick Karman....4
Bill Colvin Tribute by Dan Howard....6
Charlie Austin Saves the Sugar Bowl by Art Redman....7
Fix a Troy for a Friend by Larry Tobkin....9
Sonny Clutter's Monthly Showcase Swap Shop....12
Swap Shop....12

Announcements

November 2020 meeting - Sat. Oct.10 - Online, details in email
November Monthly Feature - Radios with a I or J in their name
November Tech Talk - None this month
November Tube of the Month - None this month
Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads. Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.
Editor's Note - Please have December Call Letter contributions in by Sunday, November 28. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too). (No Calendar of Events this month due to cancellations)

Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for November 2020

It is that time of the year again and we need nominations for the offices of NWVRS. Those positions are open for any society member for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Be sure to nominate the people you feel are qualified to fill those positions.

On a side note, we need to remind people that all Yahoo groups are going away on December 15th 2020 and need to be moved to the Google Groups. I don't know why Yahoo is dropping support for the Yahoo groups after 20 years.

Right after the Zoom meeting ends, we will have a radio sale at the Abernethy Grange. This year, the tables are free and are in a short supply and most are already taken. It is possible that some may decide not to come and give up their tables, or some members may share their table space with you if you do not have many items for sale. In order for you to attend, you must sign the COVID-19 release form, wear a face mask, and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizer and forms will be provided by NWVRS. Dan Howard has graciously volunteered to come early and set up, so you may be able to get in before the official start time of 10:30 am.

I would like to take this moment to thank those that have served in the United States Armed Forces. Thank you all for your dedication and sacrifice. We are so blessed to live here in the United States of America.

Thanks and take care, Pat

VP Note

Feature of the month is "I and J "Any radios with the letter "I and J" Any members that wants to be on the phone call list please contact me at (971)407-8108. Zoom Tech Talks speakers wanted contact me with any interest. NWVRS is inviting all member to Zoom meeting: November 14, 2020 9:30am zoom link will be in Groups.

It's just some thoughts. Franklin Terry Ouchida

NWVRS Meeting Minutes - October 10, 2020

President Pat Kagi called the Zoom meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Members pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. A team of members is still working on the searchable Call Letter project. We need someone to store our projector and screen. There will be a Trash Bash and small sale at the Grange building after this Zoom meeting.
The Program Topic today is "Radios Having Names That Begin With an "H".' Robby Robinson showed a Hallicrafters radio. Liles Garcia showed a portable Hallicrafters radio. Rick Walton showed a Holiday Radio. Liles updated the group on last month's meeting minutes. Blake said that the on-line Call Letter will be out later today. The paper Call Letter is coming out soon.
The Program Topic for next month is "Radios with Names Beginning with I, J, or K." The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

A Tribute to Virginia
by Susan Hamilton, longtime Friend

With regret I tell you that Virginia Rankin passed away on Sunday, September 6, 2020 at 101 years old. Terri Adams took her to the hospital for dehydration when things started to decline for Virginia. She passed away quietly, and calmly, as I was with her just shortly before she died.

The Medical Team at Providence Hospital made sure that Virginia was calm and out of any pain. I left Virginia's side only minutes before she passed away so I had the opportunity to say good-bye to my friend of over 40 years. Virginia is survived by four Grandchildren, Theresa, Monica, Angela and Tony; their spouses and many Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren as well as her niece and the numerous friends that she acquired during her lifetime, including Terri Adams, her personal caregiver for the past three years .

As a longtime friend of Virginia's, I considered it a gift to have known her and shared with her many hours of fun, as well an array of different interests and hobbies. I, personally, called her "Aunt Virginia" as she was also involved in the life of my Granddaughter, Chelsea, from infancy, and I considered her to be part of the family.

Virginia will definitely be missed, but never forgotten, as you know she enriched the lives of so many people during her lifetime, especially those of us who knew her personally. Virginia was truly an amazing woman!

Warm regards to all in the Radio Club.

Susan Hamilton

In Memory of Virginia Ranken

By Dick Karman

On September 6, 2020 the NW Vintage Radio Society lost its oldest member. Virginia Ranken had been a member since she and her husband Hugh joined in 1976. Hugh and Virginia joined at the invitation by Tom and Dorothy James.

Virginia was active in our women's auxiliary which we called the "POWER SUPPLY." Virginia wrote the Power Supply pages in the Call Letter from 1978 to 1981, as well as helped organize social gatherings, refreshments, contests, and Christmas gift exchanges.

The ladies in the Power Supply held down two roles: They were active in the NWVRS and they were officers in the Buena Vista club, paving the way for the NWVRS to use the Buena Vista Club House. The club house in Buena Vista Park was only for the use of members, so the women of the NW Vintage Radio Society joined the Buena Vista Club and did exceptionally well, both for the Buena Vista Club and for the radio club. Virginia held several offices in the women's club.

Hugh was 10 years older than Virginia but never failed to keep up with the younger volunteers around the women's club and around the radio

society. He took a term as NWVRS Recording Secretary and for more than 5 years wrote articles and columns for the Call Letter. Virginia and Hugh agreed to act as host and hostess at radio displays like the ones at the Georgia Pacific Historical Museum, and the Western Forestry Center as well as Buena Vista Club events.

By 1981 Virginia had passed most of the Call Letter Power Supply pages off. And by 1986 Hugh was no longer an officer of the Radio club. It was as if they knew their time of involvement needed to wind down. Hugh didn't run for office in 1987 or 1988 and in September of 1988, Hugh died of a heart attack. Virginia was a widow at 69, and although she helped out with the power supply duties, she was content to view the activities of the club from a distance.

For the last three decades Virginia has dutifully read and saved every Call Letter that was mailed to her. Her family and friends report that she has kept up on the activities and officers of the society that she and her husband so graciously invested their time in.

She had kept a dozen or so of Hugh's radios as reminders of the hobby that he loved, but in 2018 she brought them to an NWVRS meeting to be auctioned off as a memorial to Hugh. In March, 2018 Virginia briefly attended a meeting, and the radios were auctioned.

A year later in May of 2019 members of the Radio Club were invited to attend her 100th birthday party held at the Holiday Inn. A few of us were able to attend and the event was written up in the Call Letter. It just reminded us of how much history this wonderful lady had seen. Her family graciously included us in the activities and made sure that she knew we were there, but that much excitement for a centenarian may have been hard to process.

Radio Society members were also invited to participate in Virginia's 101st birthday although it was quite different. In May 2020 we were all in quarantine and the best we could do was to drive by her house as she sat in the window. We waved and she waved. Some of us will remember, even if she didn't.

Four months later she passed quietly. This writer had the privilege of placing flowers by her casket at a small service before her interment. It was an honor to say goodbye for the club she thought so much of. Virginia H Ranken, May 22, 1919 to September 6, 2020

Bill Colvin Tribute

By Dan Howard

In the flood of emails that went by this week, I almost missed the note from Pat that NVRS member Bill Colvin passed away. I can't say that I really knew Bill, but we had a memorable meeting a few years ago.

At the Society's October, 2017, swap meet at the Eagle's, Bill came by our table carrying a most unusual cabinet. His mission that day was to find a chassis to fit it. Bill had no information on the set but thought that it was worth restoring. I was not only smitten with its beautiful design, I empathized with his predicament having done several similar projects over the years. Picking up a beautiful (but empty) cabinet at a bargain price always seems so tempting. And yet, it always seems to turn into a *project.* One in particular, (a deco Majestic), has been sitting incomplete on my shelf for at least 20 years with no end in sight. And, I must confess, it's not alone.

Later in the show, I inquired about the set and Bill said that he'd struck out and put it back in his car. However, before he left, he gave me the chance to photograph his cabinet. We ran these photos in the November, 2017 Call Letter in hopes that maybe a chassis would come his way. I really hope it did.

My brief introduction to Bill that day left a lasting impression of him as a very kind gentleman. If you'd like to read more, Bill's obit was published in the Statesman Journal:
https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesmanjournal/obituary.aspx?pid=195290857

Charlie Austin Saves the Sugar Bowl

By Art Redman

The Sugar Bowl restaurant became Portland's favorite hangout for teenagers during the 1920s. "Hello, Sugar Bowl! Hello Sugar Bowl! I wish we had of that nice French salad ice cream here right now," yelled Willard P. Hawley Jr. into the microphone of his 100-watt station KGY. Soon a deliveryman from the Sugar Bowl on NE Broadway and NE 19th Avenue would dash to 1914 NE 22nd Avenue, now the White House bed and breakfast inn, with a couple of galleons of ice cream for the studio audience of Benson Tech teachers and anyone willing to sing, talk, and play over the air.

The Bowl got dozens of enquires asking the owner, Maurie Smead, if they could visit the place, is it free, and is there a cover charge for listening in? Mr. Smear invited all as guests including KGW executives loved to hear their names called out through the loudspeakers inside the Sugar Bowl.

After each amateur performer finished his act, the Bowl patrons would quit shoveling in ice cream and applaud. Sometimes someone would charge the reception was a fake, and that the program was coming from a concealed phonograph. Smead then invited skeptics to go up on the balcony to inspect the radio receiver.

One night there was a near catastrophe at the Sugar Bowl. The detector tube burned out and a good tube was not available. Charley Austin of station KGN provided a good one. According to *The Oregonian,* Austin 'had one of the fanciest stations playing records and talking to other broadcasters about common radio problems".

However, *The Oregonian* later downgraded KGN reporting, "Charlie Austin, who ran a little station at his home on Mt. Tabor, saved the situation." Austin "built some of the best radio stuff in this part of the country he was kept so busy daytimes he finally had to quit broadcasting nights. His stuff wound up in the junk pile".

Some of the junk the Northwestern Radio Manufacturing made was their Models SR-1 and SR-2 marketed by Hallock and Watson. Northwestern' next radio combined the earlier sets shown an ad of *Radio* Magazine January 1923 "The Non-Regenerative Receiver Deluxe". Later Austin labeled it the Model SR-14.

One thing that kept Charley too busy to broadcast was to build and install the best station money could buy for Willard Hawley. *The Oregonian* credited Hawley's amateur station 7XG of being first to commercialize his station though "in a very small way" by asking for ice cream from the Sugar Bowl while broadcasting.

Charlie Austin predated Hawley by three years by plugging records from the Song Bird record shop in 1919 on his station 7XF. The capital 'X' stands for experimental. By February 1922, Austin's station became KGN and one of the hardest of Portland's early radio stations to receive. The radio editor of *The Oregonian* blamed reception problems on "using very small power at this time". However, Hallock and Watson's station KGG on SW Park Avenue, King George George, used only five watts during 1922 and had no reception problems.

One Portland crystal set owner wrote *The Oregonian* "I hear you KGG, KYG, but I cannot hear KGY, KFEC, and KGN very good. I used an inductance about 100 turns wound on a pasteboard tube 3.5" diameter and tapped every four turns". What more should can I do?

The radio editor responded the addition of a .500 mfd variable capacitor would sharpen the tuning. Since the receiving strength of a crystal set is limited the two things to do is to raise the aerial up higher into the air and make it at least 150 feet long.

The last mention of KGN in *The Oregonian* was on July 28, 1923 for a half hour music program starting at 7:00 pm. *Radio magazine* last mention of KGN was January 1924 when J.P. Brener of Ada, Ohio using a Grebe model CR-6 and Western Electric loudspeaker received *the* Portland station.

The former Sugar Shack at 1916 NE Broadway is currently an architecture and design firm. Today KGN in texting means "Kiss Good Night". Quite different from "the way radio was".

Bibliography:

"Behind the Mike", The Oregonian, March 18, 1942, page nine.
"Behind the Mike", The Oregonian, May 10, 1942, page nine.
"Radio Queries", column. The Oregonian, October 29, 1922, page 8.

Fix a Troy for a Friend

by Larry Tobkin

A few months back, before COVID struck, I was having lunch with a friend. My friend asked if I might take a look at a radio his wife inherited from her father. He said it would be right up my ally. So, about a month later, he brought me a small wood case radio. The case looked to be in decent shape and, from what I could see of the inside, it looked fairly clean. However, first looks can be deceiving.

There was no urgency in getting the radio repaired. So, the old radio sat on my bench for a while, after I got it home. One dark and rainy day, the notion struck me to start examining the radio in earnest. I noticed it was a 4 tube TRF with two RF stages without regeneration. The tube compliment consists of a 58, 57, 2A5, and an 80. The first thing I did was test the tubes. They all tested good enough. While I was looking at the top of the chassis, I noticed what appeared to be little critter droppings. The droppings were pretty old. So, I got out my cleaners and nitrile gloves and various other cleaning paraphernalia and proceeded to get rid of the little nuggets and clean the chassis. By the way, my friend's wife had this set on a table in their living room. I guess what you don't know can't hurt you. I've attached an image of the manufacturer's plate for this radio.

ENGINEERED & DESIGNED BY
TROY RADIO MFG. CO.
MAKERS OF FINE RADIOS
1815 VENICE BLVD LOS ANGELES, CALIF
MODEL VOLTS CYCLES WATTS SER
110 50-60 80 2392
Licensed by RADIO CORPORATION of AMERICA
SEE LICENSE NOTICE INSIDE

Once I finished with the top of the chassis, I flipped it over to examine the components and wiring. Mice like insulation. However, the critter didn't find its way underneath the chassis, as far as I could tell. So, I proceeded to check all the components. I did my due diligence and changed out all the capacitors, any wires with rotten insulation, and out of tolerance dog bone resistors. The schematic I got was slightly different than how it was actually wired, but that was not a problem. It did not work well once powered on. After closer examination, I discovered a problem with the first RF section antenna coil. Also, one of the new capacitors I used turned out to be bad. That little problem slowed things down a bit.

After some close examination, it looks like the mouse got hungry. Fortunately, there were only a few windings that were chewed through. I was able to remove several pieces of loose antenna coil wire before I found an end that was attached to the coil. I then attached the new end to the terminal, where the original coil lead was eaten. After a couple of adjustments, the radio receives and sounds pretty good. Below is an image of the chassis, after clean up. This is a very simple set. I cleaned up the cabinet with boiled linseed oil. The boiled linseed oil is an old can, but it spruced the finish up the quite nicely.

Troy Radio and Television Company was a small company based in Los Angeles California, and they started manufacturing radios about 1932. There were a few addresses for Troy through the years in Los Angeles California. They were located at: 1815 Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles (1933), and later at 1144 S. Olive St., Los Angeles, CA (1936). Troy not only made radios, but they made electric phonographs, crystal and magnetic pick-ups, records, blank discs and automatic record changers. However, I don't think they ever produced any television sets. I could be wrong.

I could find very little information about the Troy model 40 that I refurbished. However, I did find that it was manufactured about 1934. This set used tubes with 2.5 volt filaments, which to me, makes it sort of a throwback for its day. One thing for sure is that it was purchased at Meier & Frank in Portland Oregon. Note the metal plate on the bottom of the cabinet.

Last but not least, my friend and his wife are very happy with the set and I got a nice pack of new golf balls for my trouble. My work doesn't come cheap you know. Actually, it was a fun and challenging little project. No trouble at all.

ENGINEERED & DESIGNED BY
TROY RADIO MFG. CO.
MAKERS OF FINE RADIOS
1815 VENICE BLVD LOS ANGELES CALIF
MODEL VOLTS CYCLES WATTS SER
110 50-60
Licensed by RADIO CORPORATION of AMERICA
SEE LICENSE NOTICE INSIDE
Meier & Frank Co.
PORTLAND'S OWN STORE

Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase **By Sonny Clutter**

C. E. "Sonny" Clutter; AKA: the RadiolaGuy
Web Site: http://www.radiolaguy.com Email: radiolaguy@outlook.com

November 2020 - No new entry this month

Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.
Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Sid Saul	503 869-5280	Hebo
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

For Sale: Various radio chassis' including Philco 20, 60, and 90 and misc. others, many with full complement of tubes. Also well-made home brew and 2 armature speakers with possible good drivers. Home brew $25, any chassis $20, speaker $5 each. Everything pictured for $60 but must take all. Located in Mt. Angel, OR. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897 *

FOR SALE: B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) $20
Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565 ***

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

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FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-180 general coverage short wave receiver, 18 tube triple conversion. Plays well on all bands and in excellent condition. Asking $165.00 or best offer. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897 <radioray39@gmail.com> ***

1,500 45 RPM records for sale. A lot of late 1950's and early 1960's Doo Wop records. $300.00 for all. Electronically restored General Motors model 140 console radio. Very beautiful cabinet. $300.00 - Steve K. (541) 388-9978 * ➔

There are 3 pieces of equipment that I am hoping to find in the local area:
General Radio Standard Signal Generator, Type 805
Hallicrafters SX-12 Commercial Skyrider
Hallicrafters, S-37 (or S-27/C, S-27/CA)
Jeff Quay jeff_quay@hotmail.com *

FREE Tombstone cabinet made by Crosley. Some assembly required!!! Craig Wohlgemuth, call 360-901-1330 or cw2engineering@comcast.net ** ➔

WANTED: Austrian Minerva receiver model 388 made in 1937-1938. The model number should be on the center column on the front bakelite housing below the magic eye but if missing will be stamped on the back. Bob Krassa bob@krassa.com or call 303-475-2824. Thanks! (Member of the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club) ***

WANTED: I wish to purchase a 1942 Model 985866 Portable radio as pictured. Please contact me at 360 695-6349 or (C) 360 989-5981. The radio is ID'd by the Model # and the GM under the dial. - Ray Holland *** ➔

WANTED: I need the cable that plugs into the 6 pin male receptacle in the right picture. I also need the schematic for this unit. I have very little information about this unit except it will operate from household current or from a 6-volt source in an automobile. I would like to restore this unit and make it operational. Raymond Holland, chev33radio@comcast.net

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